

# I **BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

and

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

for the year

1971



MUNICIPAL HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John S. Gray, M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.P.H.

OFFICES: Municipal Offices,

Market Hill,

Chippingham,

Tel. No. Chippingham 8091.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the  
Borough of Calne and Salvesen,  
and the Rural Districts of

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health

THE

Mrs. Val. Gregson.

ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

OF THE

A.S. Price, D.M.A., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

Additional Public Health Inspector

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE

P.M. Dale, Cert. M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., F.R.C.P.

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1971

R. Barrell, D.F.B.Sc., M.R.C.S.

Additional Health Inspector

W.H. Knowles

S.A. Pownall

Classical Assistant

Rev. A.A. Bell.

The Committees of the Borough Council dealing directly with  
Public Health matters are:-

The Public Health and Highways Committee.  
The Housing Committee.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John R. Wray, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Offices: Municipal Offices,  
Monkton Hill,  
Chippenham.  
Tel. No. Chippenham 2821.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the  
Boroughs of Calne and Malmesbury,  
and the Rural Districts of  
Calne and Chippenham, and Malmesbury.

Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health

Mrs. V.L. Gregory.

the National Health Service, but also a liaison committee  
between the local government authority and the local  
Area Health Authority. One of these "Community Committees"  
should be appointed as advised by the District Council, and the  
Chairman Dr. R.B.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A.E. Eames, D.M.A., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Chief Public Health Inspector

C.W. Pitman, Cert. S.I.B.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.  
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

P.M. Dale, Cert. S.I.B.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.  
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, R.S.H.

R. Barrett, D.P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Authorised Meat Inspectors

W.R. Knowles

S.A. Farnston

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. A.A. Bell.

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Public Health matters are:-

The Public Health and Highways Committee.  
The Housing Committee.

THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY

W. G. H. M., H. F. D., G. C. S. J., G. O. H. N., D. F. M.,

Delegates: National Education Commission, Monitors' Bill, Crippled Children.

Test, No. Crippled Children 2951.

Method of life in Canada for the  
Government of Canada and the  
and the Royal Canadian Mounted  
Gains and Crippled Children, any  
Health Officer, with suitable  
Gains and Crippled Children

Method of life in Canada for the  
and the Royal Canadian Mounted  
Gains and Crippled Children

THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY

W. G. H. M., L. H. G. A. C., A. H. G., H. A.

Method of life in Canada for the  
and the Royal Canadian Mounted  
Gains and Crippled Children

Method of life in Canada for the  
and the Royal Canadian Mounted  
Gains and Crippled Children

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THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY

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The Government of the Dominion Council for the  
and the Royal Canadian Mounted  
Gains and Crippled Children

The Royal Canadian Mounted  
Gains and Crippled Children

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Chippenham Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1971.

The vital statistics for the year were favourable. There was a further drop in the death rate and the infant mortality rate compared with the previous year.

In view of re-organisation of local government and the health services, this will probably be the penultimate report of your Medical Officer of Health. The Report of the Working Party on Medical Administrators (Chairman: Dr. R.B. Hunter), which has recently been published, recommends that there should be a "District Community Physician" employed by the National Health Service, but that by mutual agreement between the local government District Authority and the local Area Health Authority one of these "Community Physicians" should be appointed as adviser on environmental hygiene and communicable disease control to the District Council, and "be directly accountable to it for these matters".

On the previous page you may have noticed the addition of the initials M.F.C.M. after my name. This is because I have been elected a member of the recently formed Faculty of Community Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Physicians.

I should like to thank the Council and its Officers for their support and interest during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. WRAY

Medical Officer of Health.

3. STILL BIRTHS AND PERINATAL MORTALITY

Two still births were notified during 1971. The still birth rate per 1,000 total births is 7; the corresponding rate for England and Wales as given by the Registrar General is 12.

Perinatal mortality means still births and deaths within one week of age. The rate for the Borough was 17 per 1,000 total births, whereas for England and Wales it was 22.

4. INFANT MORTALITY

Under 1 year of age  
Under 4 weeks of age  
Under 1 week of age

Male: 1  
Female: 1



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ... ... ... ... ...	1,843
Population (estimated mid-year) ... ... ...	18,680
Number of inhabited houses (at 31.12.71) ...	6,340
Number of Council dwellings (at 31.12.71) ...	2,317
Number of applicants for Council dwellings (at 31.12.71) ...	163
Number of applicants for aged persons' accommodation ...	80
Rateable value (at 31.12.71) ... ... ...	£824,607
Penny rate product for 1971/72 ... ... ...	£ 8,138

B. VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

Birth and Death Rates as compared with other areas.  
(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population standardised\*)

	Birth Rate:		Death Rate:	
	1970	1971	1970	1971
Chippenham Borough ... ...	16.5	15.2	10.9	10.7
Calne & Chippenham R.D.C. ...	18.7	20.0	10.4	12.1
Wiltshire ... ...	17.2	17.4	10.7	10.5
England and Wales ... ...	16.0	16.0	11.7	11.6

\* Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

2. LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Legitimate ... ... ...	138	142	282
Illegitimate ... ... ...	8	5	13
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>295</b>

3. STILL BIRTHS AND PERINATAL MORTALITY

Two still births were notified during 1971. The still birth rate per 1,000 total births is 7; the comparative rate for England and Wales as given by the Registrar General is 12.

Perinatal mortality means still births and deaths under one week of age. The rate for the Borough was 17 per 1,000 total births, whereas for England and Wales it was 22.

4. INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Under 1 year of age ...	1	2	3
Under 4 weeks of age ...	1	2	3
Under 1 week of age ...	1	2	3

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Infant Mortality Rate  
for the Borough ... ... ... 10 per 1,000 live births

Comparative Rate  
for England & Wales ... ... 18 per 1,000 live births

There was a decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate for the Borough during 1971, by comparison with the previous year when the rate was 16 per 1,000 live births. It should be borne in mind that the numbers involved are small, so that there can be fluctuations in the rate from year to year.

DEATHS - ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Late effects of respiratory T.B.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	1	13
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant neoplasms	7	4	11
Diabetes mellitus	2	3	5
Anaemias	-	1	1
Multiple sclerosis	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	1	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	2	3
Hypertensive disease	1	2	3
Ischaemic heart disease	33	17	50
Other forms of heart disease	8	5	13
Cerebrovascular disease	12	15	27
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	5	11
Pneumonia	10	19	29
Bronchitis and emphysema	9	1	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	6	10
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	2	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	2	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	-	2	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	-	4	4
All other external causes	1	-	1
	<u>123</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>232</u>

DEATHS - BY AGE GROUPS

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
<u>Under 4 weeks</u>			
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	-	2	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>1 - 4 years</u>			
All other accidents	-	1	1



DEATHS - BY AGE GROUPS (Continued)

Males: Females: Totals:

5 - 14 years

Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
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15 - 24 years

Other malignant neoplasms	-	1	
Other forms of heart disease	-	1	
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	
	2	2	4

25 - 34 years

Other diseases of circulatory system	-	1	
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	
Peptic ulcer	1	-	
	2	1	3

35 - 44 years

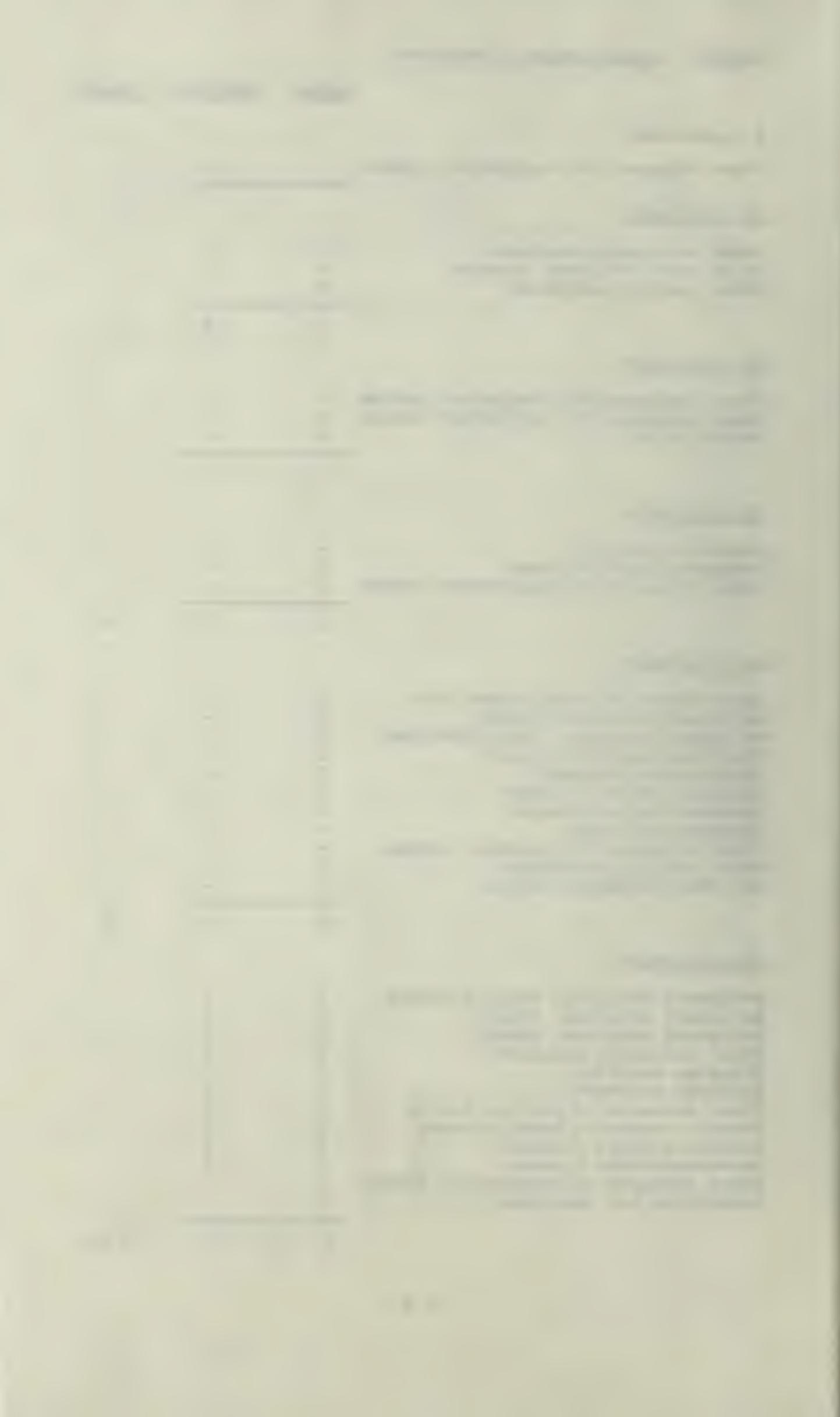
Diabetes mellitus	-	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	2	-	
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	
	3	1	4

45 - 54 years

Late effects of respiratory T.B.	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	
Other malignant neoplasms	2	1	
Hypertensive disease	1	-	
Ischaemic heart disease	2	-	
Cerebrovascular disease	-	2	
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1	
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	
All other external causes	1	-	
	10	6	16

55 - 64 years

Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	-	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	
Other malignant neoplasms	2	1	
Diabetes mellitus	1	-	
Multiple sclerosis	-	1	
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1	
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	8	2	
Cerebrovascular disease	-	2	
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	-	
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	-	
	21	10	31



DEATHS - BY AGE GROUPS (Continued)

Males: Females: Totals:

65 - 74 years

Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	17	3
Other forms of heart disease	1	1
Cerebrovascular disease	7	3
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	1
Pneumonia	1	3
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1
All other accidents	-	1
	39	17
		56

75 years and over

Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Other malignant neoplasms	3	1
Diabetes mellitus	1	2
Anaemias	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system	1	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	1
Hypertensive disease	-	2
Ischaemic heart disease	4	12
Other forms of heart disease	7	3
Cerebrovascular disease	5	8
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	3
Pneumonia	9	16
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	5
Appendicitis	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2
All other accidents	-	2
	45	68
		113

Out of the total of 232 deaths, 113 took place in people aged over 75, which is 49 per cent of the total.

There were less cases of ischaemic (coronary) heart disease than last year (50 cases compared with 68). The next main cause of death was various kind of cancer, with a total of 44 deaths.

There were 12 deaths from lung cancer in men (9.8 per cent of the total deaths for men). Schoolchildren in Wiltshire schools continue to be advised about the dangers of smoking.

There were no deaths this year from influenza, but terminal pneumonia in the very old accounted for a total of 25 deaths in the over 75 age group.



Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 4 deaths, 2 of which were in the age group 15 - 24.

### C. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives details of notifiable diseases reported during the past 4 years:-

	1968	1969	1970	1971
Tuberculosis	2	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	2	-	7
Whooping Cough	-	-	5	2
Measles	7	113	41	18
Dysentery	9	17	-	1
Food Poisoning	1	2	-	7
Infectious Hepatitis	2	5	-	2
Meningococcal	-	1	-	-
Meningitis				
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>

In July 1971 the Spanish health authorities notified the World Health Organisation of seven cases of cholera in Zaragoza and later on 7th September, 1971, Spain notified the World Health Organisation of six cases of cholera in Barcelona Province and eight cases in Valencia Province. On 20th September, 1971, the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health informed us that two British travellers had developed cholera after returning from holiday in Spain. On 17th September, 1971, airports started notifying me of travellers returning from cholera infected areas in Spain to homes in this area who were without valid cholera certificates. In October there was an outbreak of cholera in Lisbon, Portugal, and we were notified of travellers from there. All the people involved were visited by health inspectors and specimens taken from those with diarrhoea. No cases of cholera were found, but two returning travellers to North Wiltshire were found to be suffering from a salmonella food poisoning infection.

The Infectious Diseases Regulations 1968 enables one to place restrictions on food handlers suffering from suspected enteric diseases, but only those diseases specified in Schedule 5 of the regulations, which, by not mentioning cholera, specifically excludes it. I immediately took up this point with the British Medical Association, and learnt later that they were recommending to the Department of Health that cholera should be specifically included in these Regulations.

#### Tuberculosis

One case was notified during the year. The health department investigate the environmental circumstances, and the Chest Physician, helped by health visitors of Wiltshire County Council, follows up contacts.

All schoolchildren at secondary school are offered B.C.G. vaccination to protect against this disease.

#### Scarlet Fever

Seven cases were notified. This is a relatively mild disease now-a-days compared with many years ago. It quickly responds to antibiotic treatment.



## Whooping Cough

Two cases only were notified. The Triple Vaccine given in infancy protects against this disease, but does not guarantee against a mild attack.

## Measles

This should have been an epidemic year, with anything from 100 to 300 cases, but only 18 cases were notified. This shows that parents are taking advantage of the Measles Immunisation offered to infants in their second year of life. It should be recalled that there was a death from measles in the Borough in 1968.

## Dysentery

There was one isolated case in someone who had returned from India.

## Food Poisoning

There were seven cases of Salmonella food poisoning notified. There was one family outbreak affecting two people, but all the other cases were sporadic ones. In one case the person had just returned from a holiday in Spain.

## Infectious Hepatitis

Two cases were notified.

## Immunisation

I am grateful to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following statistics of immunisation carried out in the Borough:-

Year of Birth:		1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1962 - 66	1956 - 61	Others under 16
Primary imms. completed during 1971	Diph. Wh. Cough Tetanus Measles Polio	144 144 144 - 144	162 160 162 214 162	7 6 7 31 8	- - - 16 1	- - - 7 -	4 - 4 10 3	- - 5 1 -	- - - - -
Reinforcing imms. given in 1971	Diph. Wh. Cough Tetanus Polio	- - - -	96 66 96 95	146 105 146 144	6 2 6 4	95 3 95 95	54 2 62 36	- - 22 2	- - - -

SMALLPOX Vaccination discontinued as a routine measure in early childhood September 1971.

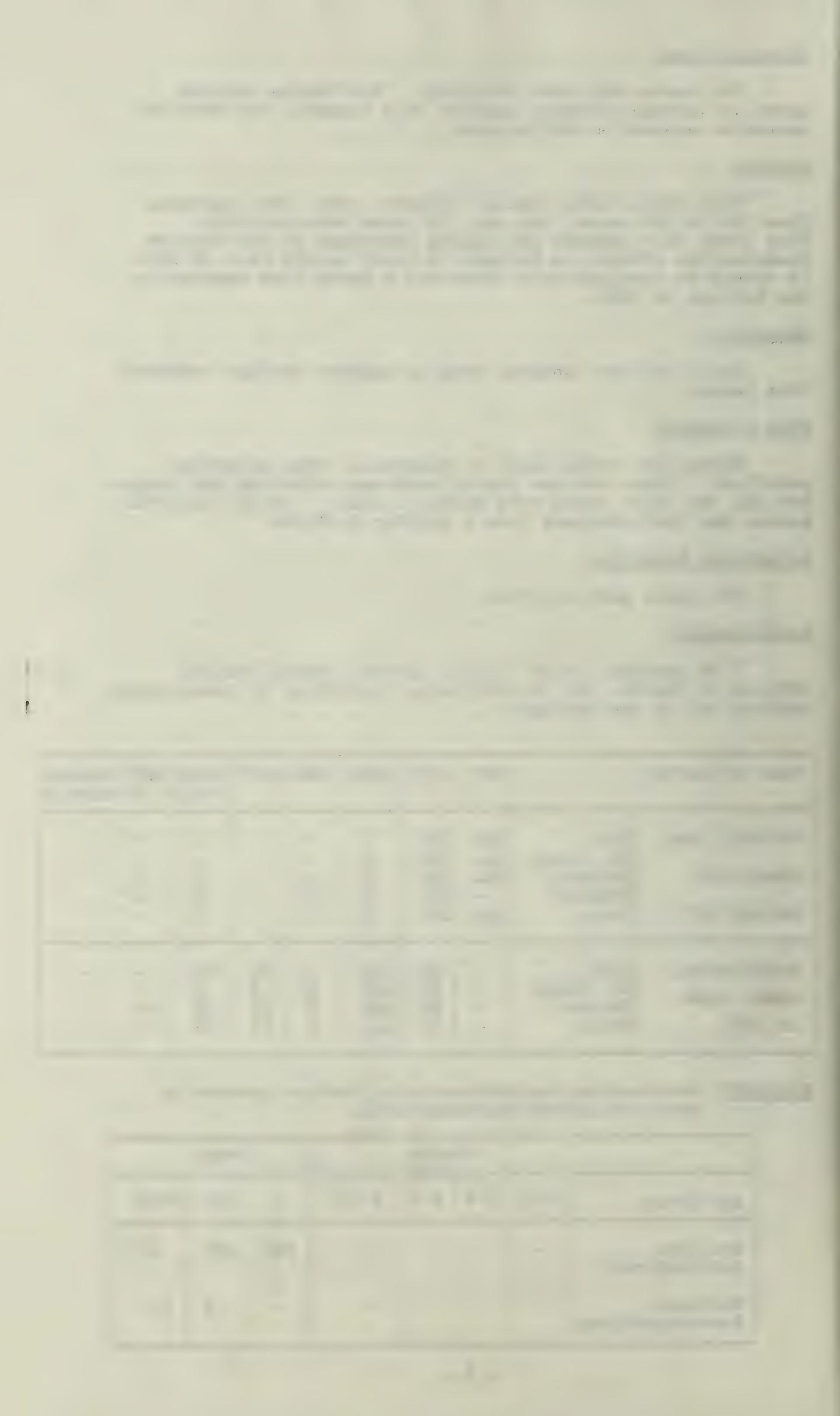
Age Group:	Months				Years		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Smallpox Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	90	105	4
Smallpox Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	3	21



ERRATUM

Page 9. Para. 3

"The death rates in Glasgow for cardiovascular disease are about the highest in Britain (654 per 100,000 for people aged 45 - 64 years) and the city has a very soft water supply. Greater London has a very hard drinking water and similar deaths (440 per 100,000) are approximately two-thirds those in Glasgow."



## D. WATER SUPPLIES

The health department take regular samples from consumers' supply points throughout the borough for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory in Bath. They also test for residual chlorine in the water. I receive copies of the Public Analyst's reports on the water from all sources, showing that it does not contain any trace of poisonous metals, and also that it does not dissolve the lead in lead pipes. It is only a certain type of soft water that dissolves lead from lead pipes, and we are fortunate that the water in this area is comparatively hard. People may complain that hard water uses more soap, but there is now good evidence that hard waters are healthier than soft waters. A summary of the facts is given in an article by A.N. Howard in the April 1972 medical journal entitled "Modern Geriatrics" - some of this is worth quoting in full:

"In the United Kingdom, Crawford and her colleagues showed that in 61 County Boroughs of England and Wales with a population of over 80,000 in 1961, the harder the local drinking water and the more calcium it contained, the lower was the death rate in middle and early old age; this was particularly so for cardiovascular mortality. Chemical studies of trace elements in water from consumers' taps showed none at a concentration which could be considered toxic either in towns with very soft or very hard water.

The death rates in Glasgow for cardiovascular disease are about the highest in Britain (654 per 100,000 for people aged 45 - 64 years) and the city has a very hard drinking water and similar deaths (440 per 100,000) are approximately two-thirds those in Glasgow.

Probably the most interesting report is that provided by Robertson, who has studied the rise in death rate from cardiovascular disease over the last seven years in Scunthorpe, Lincs., where the water supply was artificially softened. Nearby Grimsby has exactly the same water supply, but unsoftened. Scunthorpe has 27% more deaths than Grimsby. Moreover, while death rates are still rising in Scunthorpe they are falling slightly in Grimsby. The local water board have taken the unusual step of doubling the calcium content of the town's water supply and have given up using the water softener.

There is no clear evidence as yet as to what is present or missing in soft water that makes it deleterious."

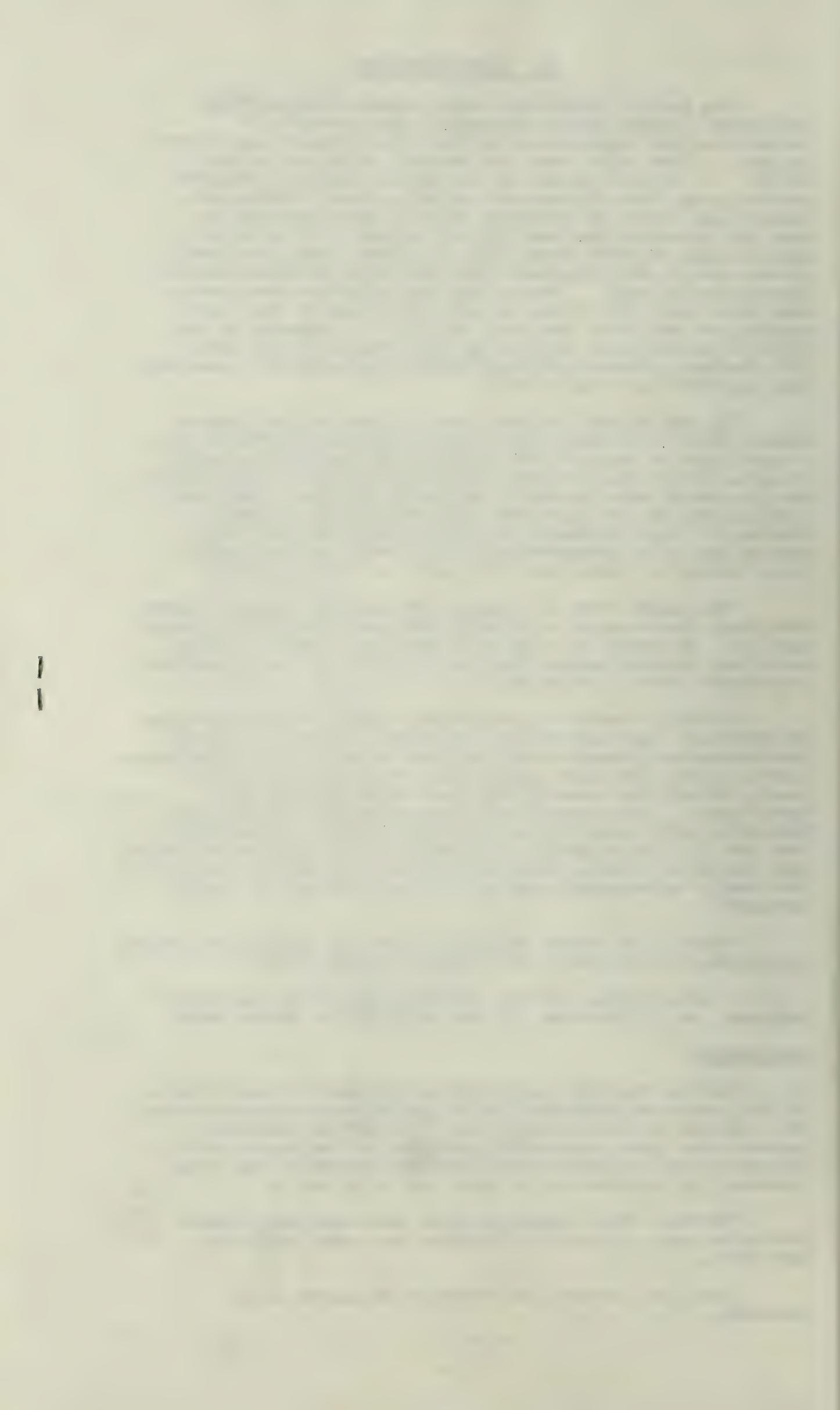
I am grateful for the following report by the Chief Engineer, Mr. R. Farrage, of the North Wilts. Water Board:

### Development

During the year under review the Board's new borehole at Holt has been developed and a pumping station constructed. This station is now in operation. A further production borehole has been successfully drilled to the south of Holt Village which, together with the first borehole, has been licensed for abstraction of water up to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m.g.d.

Further trial boreholes have been sunk near Market Lavington and a production borehole has been drilled at Easterton.

Work on a production borehole at Lacock is in progress.



## Consumption

		<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Average daily consumption in million gallons	... ... ...	8.76	9.44
Metered Supplies	... ... ...	3.08	3.29
Unmetered Supplies	... ... ...	5.68	6.15

Despite the ever increasing demand for water the Board is still meeting this demand with some reserves.

## Bacteriological Examination of Water

### (a) Samples taken from consumers' supply points

During the year 1,330 samples from consumers' supply points were examined; of these:-

1,241 were satisfactory, having coliform counts of less than 1  
49 were reported to have coliform counts of 1 - 2  
40 had coliform counts of 3 or more.

On the occasions when reports of coliform counts were received from the laboratory, investigations and repeated samplings were undertaken and continued until satisfactory reports were received.

### (b) Samples taken from sources

775 samples of water from sources were submitted for examination, 280 samples before treatment was applied to the water and 495 samples after the water had been treated.

#### Samples of water before treatment

280 samples were submitted:-

Excellent:	Coliform count of less than 1	... 154
Satisfactory:	" " " 1 - 3	... ... 80
Suspicious:	" " " 4 - 10	... ... 21
Unsatisfactory:	" " " more than 10	... 25

Samples excellent and satisfactory: 83.6%

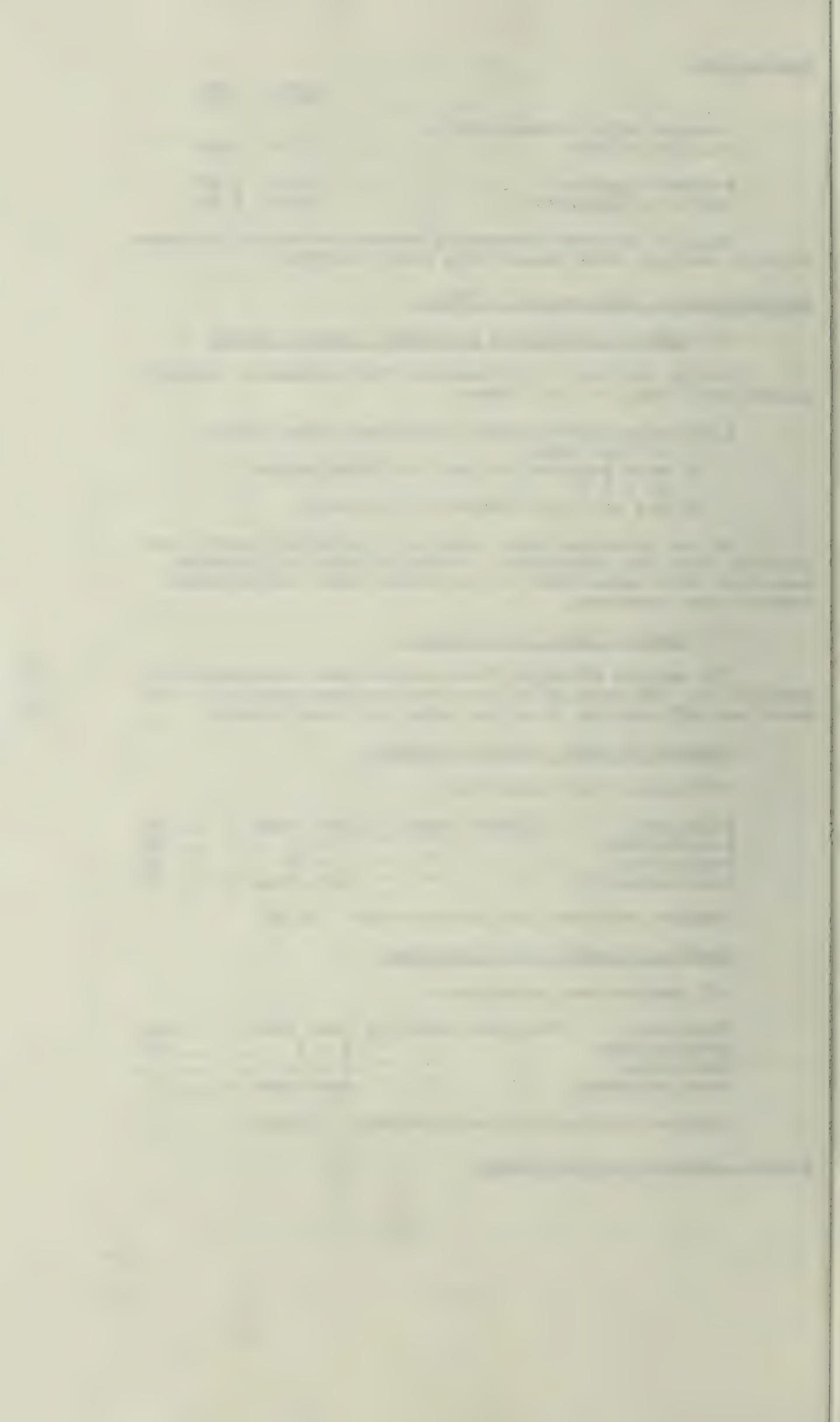
#### Samples of water after treatment

495 samples were submitted:-

Excellent:	Coliform count of less than 1	... 469
Satisfactory:	" " " 1 - 3	... ... 18
Suspicious:	" " " 4 - 10	... ... 4
Unsatisfactory:	" " " more than 10	... 4

Samples excellent and satisfactory: 98.4%

## Typical Analysis of Raw Waters



	Chippenham Borehole p.p.m.	Rodbourne Borehole p.p.m.	Charlton Borehole p.p.m.
Date	25.8.71	22.9.71	21.7.71
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.2	7.3	7.3
Free CO <sub>2</sub>	32	25	26
Chloride	35	40	18
Hardness:	320	285	310
Carbonate	255	250	260
Non-Carbonate	65	35	50
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.3	0.6	2.6
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.01	Absent	0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	0.30	0.10	0.10
Alb. Nitrogen	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iron	0.10	0.03	0.04
Zinc	Absent	0.04	Absent
Other Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	0.75	0.63	0.38

Chlorination of all sources is practised with the aim of obtaining chlorine residuals at all consumers' points of supply of between 0.1 and 0.3 ppm.

The Board continues to exercise supervision of the quality of raw water from all the sources by submitting samples to their Consultant Chemists, The Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, and any changes in chemical or mineralogical qualities of the water are reported upon by Mr. Gordon Miles, the principal of those laboratories.

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.38 to 0.75 ppm in the water obtained from the deep borehole source in the limestone, but it is usually absent in the waters obtained from shallow wells and spring sources.

The Board is advised by its Consultant Chemists that none of the waters supplied is plumbago-solvent.

#### E. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

I am grateful to Mr. O.E.W. Street, the Borough Surveyor, for the following information.

##### Sewage Disposal

1. The existing sewage disposal plants, one at Westmead and a second at Patterdown, serve the Borough and fringe areas in the Calne and Chippenham Rural District.
2. Stage III of the major sewerage and sewage disposal improvement scheme was commenced in August 1971, the total expenditure being £1,004,000 and good progress was made.

Contract No.1 (£508,000 including fees etc.) comprises Phase I of the new sewage disposal plant at Blackwell Hams.



This is the construction of one third of the ultimate works and will enable Patterdown Works to be closed down in the Spring of 1973, while at the same time relieve the Westmead Works of some of its load.

Contract No. 2 (£496,000 including fees etc.) comprises the laying of foul and surface water sewers in sizes up to 1,200mm diameter (48") draining the Sheldon Road area, and also a trunk sewer from Providence Terrace in Ivy Lane to remove a surcharging nuisance and divert some of the flow from the overloaded Westmead Works.

Both contracts are to be completed by August 1973.

3. New Schemes planned for the future. A scheme has been prepared to meet the improved standard required by the Bristol Avon River Authority by the end of 1975. This involves the construction of Phase II of the new Blackwell Hams Sewage Disposal Works.

4. The effluent from the Westmead Works discharges directly into the River Avon and that from Patterdown via the Pudding Brook to the Avon.

The new Blackwell Hams Sewage Disposal Plant will discharge directly into the River Avon.

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection in the Borough continues to be operated by two covered compression type vehicles. One of the vehicles was replaced by a 22/70 Dennis/Norta screw type compression vehicle during the year.

House and trade refuse is collected weekly with additional collections from some premises such as cafes, food and fish shops, etc., where food is handled.

Waste paper and cardboard was collected from certain trade premises by the Albion Paper Products Company, but during the year they withdrew the service due to the nation wide paper situation, and for the remainder of the year the Council collected and tipped paper at Westmead.

A free collection of unwanted materials was made from all houses in the Borough.

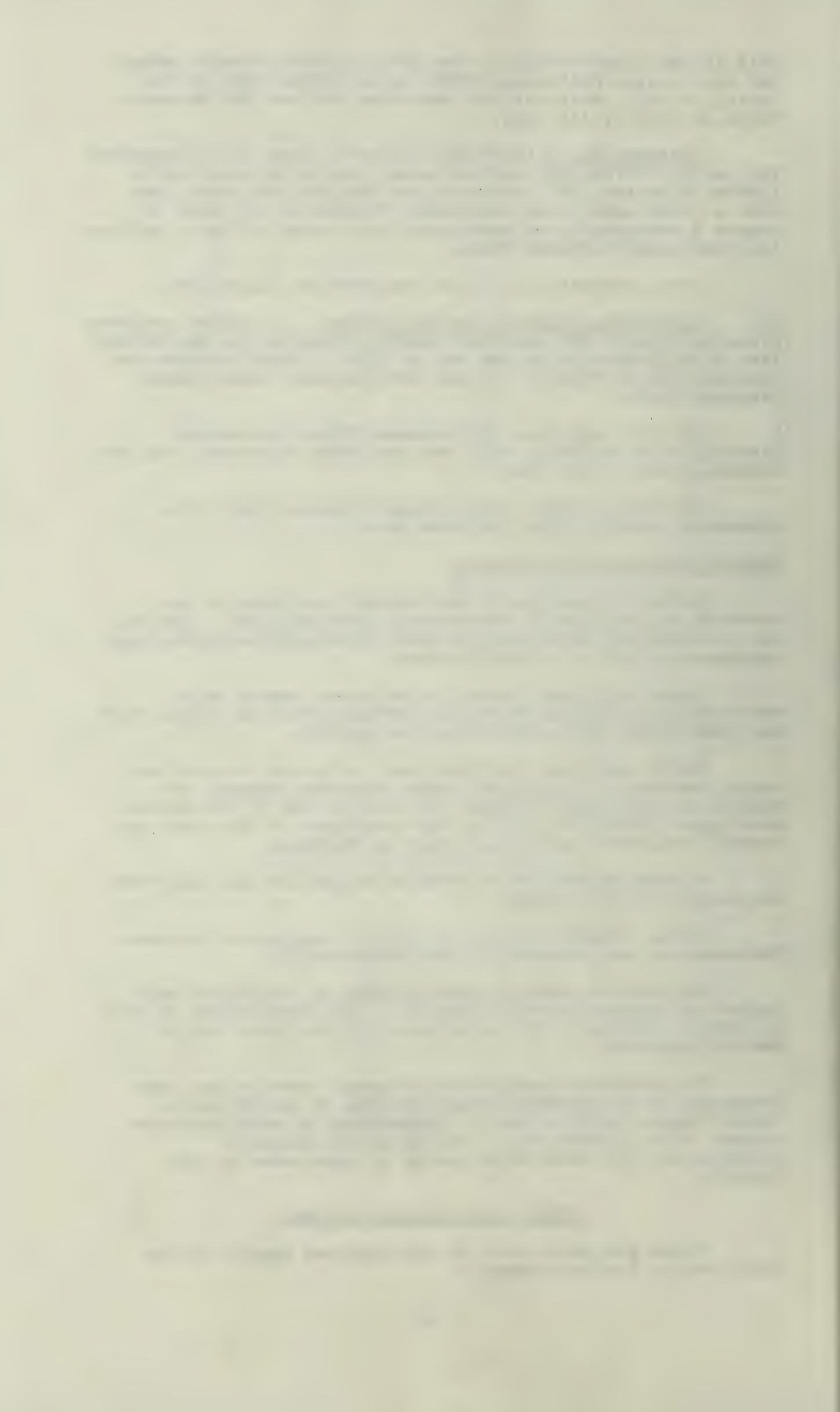
Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Westmead. The handling and covering is done mechanically.

Full use is made of insecticides in connection with refuse collection and tip dressing. The eradication of rats is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The refuse collection and disposal service has been investigated by the Works Study Section of the Wiltshire County Council with a view to introducing a bonus incentive scheme, with alterations in the trade and domestic collections, but these have yet to be considered by the Council.

#### OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

These are dealt with in the attached Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
For the Year 1971

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chippenham.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present this, my fifth Annual Report, in respect of the work of the department in 1971.

Housing was the dominant theme during the year and the greater part of the department's resources were devoted to dealing with sub-standard housing conditions and the improvement of older housing by means of the Improvement Grant Scheme. It is perhaps not generally appreciated how much work is involved in the preparation of schemes to recondition or improve housing and there is a danger that a too bureaucratic approach will discourage applicants and defeat the objects of the scheme, and yet, quite rightly, care must be taken to ensure that the money is spent wisely and properly accounted for.

In the field of food control, it was necessary to supplement the staff engaged on meat inspection at the end of the year by the appointment of a third Authorised Meat Inspector. Fortunately the revised charges for Meat Inspection will go a long way towards meeting the cost of this service.

There will inevitably be considerable changes in the Environmental Health Services as a result of Local Government Re-organisation, but it is now clear that these services will continue to be carried out by the District Councils and we can at least anticipate continuity in their administration after 1974, and forward planning by the constituent authorities in the new area of North West Wiltshire can take place.

Other changes are also likely following our entry into the European Economic Community. One of the aims of the Community is to ensure a uniformity of standards and administration in the member countries, and although the Environmental Health Services in this country will stand comparison with any in Europe, they have developed on different lines. There has been a need for greater centralised control in European countries which has not proved to be necessary in our local government oriented system.

In the European Community the Central Administration operate a system of technical committees who prepare directives and regulations which are mandatory on member countries. In the past, these have been designed to meet continental conditions and as we will be in a minority position in the Community, there is little doubt that there will have to be changes in our system of food control in order to bring it into line with continental practice.

Perhaps when we become full members of an enlarged European Community, their central establishment will be more prepared to consider a full and impartial review of the whole system, both as far as inter-community trade is concerned and trade within the member countries.

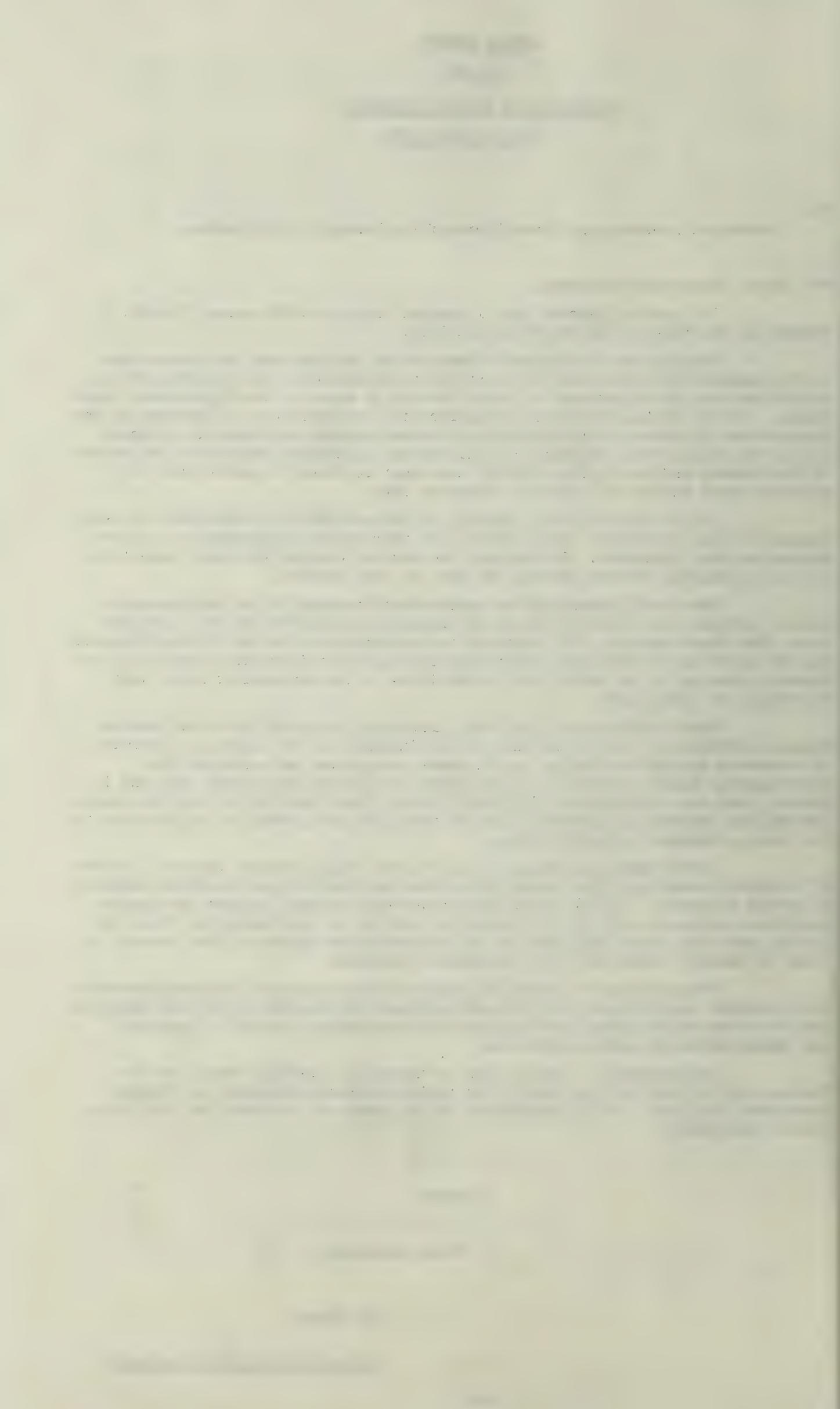
In conclusion, I would like to express my grateful thanks to the Members and Officers of the Council for their continued assistance and support throughout the year, and in particular, to Dr. Wray and the staff of the Public Health Department.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A.E. Eames.

Chief Public Health Inspector



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEY OF THE DISTRICT

The first table sets out the number of visits made by your inspectors during the year, and gives some indication of the wide range of activities which come under the heading of Environmental Health.

TABLE 1. Summary of Inspections and Other Visits to Premises

Atmospheric Pollution	102
Caravan Sites	21
Drainage	319
Factories	21
Food Premises, including Licensed Premises	279
Housing	1,087
Housing (Multiple Occupation)	26
Infectious Diseases	103
Milk Distribution and Dairies	77
Mobile Shops and Market Stalls	76
Noise Abatement	76
Offices and Shops	128
Pest and Rodent Control (excluding those visits made by the operative)	176
Public Health General (including Nuisances)	230
Sampling of Food	74
Slaughterhouses (including resident inspectors)	916
Swimming Pools	18
Water Supply and Sampling	199
Miscellaneous	150
	4,078

As a result of these visits, 274 formal or informal notices were complied with during the year.

HOUSING

The Housing situation is again considered under three main headings, and I am indebted to the Town Clerk, Borough Surveyor and the Housing Estates Manager, for various statistics which have been used in compiling this section of the report.

A. Provision of an adequate supply of new houses

TABLE II Number of new houses and flats completed

	1971	1970	1969	Average last 10 years
a) By local authority	46	12	35	75
b) By private enterprise	58	44	60	75
Total	104	56	95	150

TABLE III Number of Applicants on Housing List

	1971	1970	1969	Average last 10 years
a) Number of applicants on general list *	163	223	226	190
b) Applicants for Aged Persons' accommodation	117	87	57	99
Total	280	310	283	289

\* This figure does not include applicants who have already been selected for tenancies.



**TABLE IV. Stock of Houses**

	1971	1970	1969	Average Last 10 Years
Estimated net gain or loss in the number of dwellings after allowance has been made for those demolished or no longer used for habitation.	+55	- 3	+50	+82
Total expressed as a % of the Housing Stock.	+0.8%	-0.05%	+0.8%	1.3%

In the local authority field it was possible to carry out a limited redevelopment at Westcroft, which provided much needed bungalow accommodation for general use, and replaced the temporary pre-fabricated dwellings.

Private development was also starting to revive at the end of the year, and was again concentrated in the Derriads Park area.

Unfortunately, proposals for privately rented houses and flats to be provided by a Housing Association, were delayed by the need to complete Stage III of the Council's Sewerage Scheme before the development could proceed. Similar restrictions affected other proposed developments in the Western part of the town.

The buoyant state of the second-hand housing market continued during the year and indicated the strong underlying demand for housing in this area. The sharp escalation in house prices, generally estimated at 10 - 15%, was symptomatic of this sustained demand and the general escalation of costs in the building sector.

During the year, 37 tenants of Council Houses were able to purchase their properties under the Council's House Purchase Scheme, and at the end of the year there were 2,317 dwellings, or 36% of the town's housing stock, in the ownership of the Council.

In the private sector, the steady decline in rented accommodation continued, and it is hoped that the proposals of the Housing Associations will go some way towards meeting this need in the future.

There was no great change in the overall housing situation during the year with the continuation of two main underlying trends. Firstly, the steady demand for house ownership, which had an added impetus due to the prospect of rent increases in both private and public sectors, and secondly, the continuing and increasing demand for aged persons accommodation, as more people live longer.

Local authorities must always be aware of the changing needs of the community and it is encouraging to see the use of other agencies such as Housing Associations, Self-help groups, in this field.

I would also like to see more research into assessing actual housing need in a community. The Council's Housing List can only relate to one facet of this subject, and gives no indication of, for instance, the demand for house ownership.

The housing market is very volatile and seems unable to maintain an even flow of houses in the private sector, and there is some evidence that lower paid workers are being priced out of home ownership.

## B. The Maintenance, Repair and Improvement of the Stock of Older Houses

**TABLE V Inspection of Dwellings**

a) Inspected for housing defects	362
b) Number of dwellings found to be unfit for human habitation	23
c) Number of dwellings found to be not in all respects fit for habitation	109
d) Number of dwellings made fit in consequence of informal action	32
e) Number of dwellings made fit in consequence of Statutory action under Sections 9 & 16 of the Housing Act 1957 or the Public Health Act 1936	2
f) Number of other houses in which defects were remedied	106



TABLE VI Houses in Multiple Occupation

a) Total number of houses in Multiple Occupation	48
b) Number of Inspections	26
c) Number of Notices served -	
i) to make good neglect of proper standards	2
ii) to require additional services or facilities	4
iii) direction on overcrowding	1
iv) number of control orders made	Nil

TABLE VII Improvement of Houses

Number of Enquiries = 104

Standard Grants

Applications			Amount of Grant	Amenities Provided				
Received	Approved	Completed		Bath	W.H.B.	HW.	W.C.	Sink
7	8	10	£876	5	6	9	6	-

Average Grant £87Discretionary Grants

Applications Received Approved	Total Cost of Works	Total Grant Aid	House Improvements Completed		
			No.	Amount of Grant	
37	38	£57,448	£21,340	24	£12,277

Average Grant £511

The number of completions and applications approved more than doubled compared with 1970.

Local Authority owned houses improved during the year 26

Improvement Areas

At the end of the year the Council publicly stated their faith in the long term future of The Butts area by declaring an area extending from The Causeway to Baydons Lane and containing 109 houses, to be a General Improvement Area.

The proposals drawn up by the Eric Cole Design Group envisage the re-modelling of the road layout and the injection of fresh capital in the form of new housing to provide the necessary stimulus and improvement in the environment so necessary in this area of older housing.

Many of the properties are in very poor condition and will require extensive modernisation, others pose considerable problems due to restricted layout and proximity to busy main roads.

Preliminary work has started on a second Improvement Area around The Hamlet, but due to conflicting priorities, these proposals have had to be deferred for the time being.

Maintenance, Repair and Improvement

The main efforts of the department were again directed at maintaining the impetus of the House Improvement Scheme. A small display was arranged in conjunction with the South Western Gas Board and a number of talks were given to interested groups in the area. Information and photographs were also supplied to adjoining authorities.

There can be no standard approach to the improvement of a house and each case has to be carefully evaluated to ensure that the applicant and the Council get maximum value for money. The rising costs of building works has meant that owners had difficulty in meeting their proportion of the costs of improvements and the associated repairs. The Council freely used its powers to finance this work by means of a further mortgage or advance, and without this assistance many applicants would have been unable to take advantage of the Grant Scheme.



Generally in Chippenham the Grant Scheme is working well and making a vital contribution to the Housing of the Community out of all proportion to its cost to the rate-payer.

#### C. Clearance of Unfit Dwellings

TABLE VIII Proceedings under Sections 16 & 23 Housing Act, 1957

1. Number of Demolition Orders made	-
2. Number of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	11
3. Number of Local Authority houses demolished	30
4. Number of Closing Orders made or undertakings accepted	8
5. Number of families rehoused	3
6. Number of persons rehoused	5

#### Proceedings under Section 42. Housing Act, 1957

1. Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area Procedure	-
2. Number of houses in confirmed Clearance Areas	8
3. Number of houses in Clearance Areas awaiting confirmation	-
4. Number of families rehoused	6
5. Number of persons rehoused	16

#### Clearance of Unfit Dwellings

Steady progress has again been made in dealing with the remaining unfit dwellings in the town. There is a very human problem involved in the re-housing of the occupiers who have frequently lived in the properties for many years, but it is encouraging to find that once having moved to a warm and dry home with all the amenities, then frequently their only regret is that they were unable to move earlier.

#### D. HOUSING ACT 1969. PART III

##### Rent of Dwellings in good repair and provided with Standard Amenities

TABLE IX

Applications		
Rcv'd.	Granted.	Refused.
Qualification Certificates	8	4
Certificates of Provisional Approval	2	1

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued under the Rent Act 1957.

This procedure provides for the changing of a controlled tenancy into a regulated tenancy, which, whilst retaining the security of tenure, provides for the rent to be increased by instalment and a new Fair Rent to be assessed by the Rent Officer. The Procedure is complicated and it is a condition of approval that the house has the five amenities, is in good repair and otherwise fit for habitation.

The new Housing Finance Bill at present before Parliament will simplify this procedure and accelerate the trend towards regulated tenancies and Fair Rents in the Private Sector.

#### E. HOUSING ACT 1957

##### Overcrowding

A number of complaints were received regarding overcrowding, but in no case were the number of persons living in these dwellings in excess of the statutory limit laid down in the Housing Act 1957. The Standard is very low and not really relevant in present day conditions.



## Housing - Furnished Lettings

The proposals set out in the Housing Finance Bill to extend the subsidy system to rented properties in the private sector, will certainly assist many tenants who tend to be predominately in the older age groups. The position relating to furnished lettings is still being considered and it must be recorded that in this field there is the least control of rents, little security of tenure and the greatest exploitation of tenants.

There is a limited market for high class furnished houses but the greater majority are only let furnished in order to secure high rents and/or greater control of the tenancies. Furnished accommodation is more likely to exacerbate relationships between landlord and tenant and is socially undesirable.

In my view this type of accommodation should be actively discouraged and whilst having every sympathy for tenants in furnished lettings, I would deplore any further inducements to private landlords to increase this particular form of housing accommodation.

## Moveable Dwellings

TABLE X

### Private Licensed Sites

Ladyfield Nurseries	1
Bath Road	1
52, Lowden	1

2 Sites were vacated during the year.

### Council-owned Sites

Hill Corner Road	1
Southmead	4

7 Sites were vacated during the year.

### Sites exempt from Licensing Requirements

67, Hill Corner Road	2
<hr/>	
	10

## Council Caravan Sites

The site in Southmead has had a chequered career and was evolved from a wartime camp. Both this site, and the one in Hill Corner Road, fall far short of the standards expected in permanent residential caravan sites and the Council are progressively running down both sites.

Whilst there is a small minority of people who wish to live permanently in caravans, the majority, particularly people with families, look upon them as a temporary expedient. Any general increase in the demand for caravans can be directly related to shortcomings in the supply of permanent housing at a cost within reach of young couples or lower paid workers.

Properly equipped caravan sites make heavy demands on capital, and smaller sites with less than 20 caravans are unlikely to be a viable proposition in the future.

## Gypsies and Other Travellers

The pattern of previous years was repeated and difficulties were again experienced with itinerant travellers parking their caravans and lorries and leaving their debris on any cleared site, and even Emery Lane Car Park on occasions.

There are no residential or transit sites available for their use in Wiltshire, and the problem seems likely to continue until alternative sites are provided and itinerant travellers persuaded to use them.



PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT  
OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

1) Registration and General Inspection

TABLE XI

Class of premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	Registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year
Offices	4	82	10
Retail Shops	4	156	23
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	5	1
Catering Establishments open to the public and Canteens	-	19	2
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
	8	262	35

2) Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections)

128

3) Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises at end of year

TABLE XII

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	955
Retail Shops	852
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	123
Catering Establishments open to the Public	131
Fuel Storage Depots	-
Canteens	6
	2067
Total Males	1356
Total Females	711

4) Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) of the Act - 4 Public Health Inspectors.

5) Analysis of Contraventions

TABLE XIII

Section	Contraventions	No. found
4	Cleanliness	5
6	Temperature	6
7	Ventilation	13
8	Lighting	10
9	Sanitary Conveniences	8
10	Washing Facilities	7
11	Supply of Drinking Water	3
12	Clothing Accommodation	6
16	Floors, Passages and stairs	9
17	Fencing exposed parts of dangerous machinery	2
24	First Aid	6
	Other matters	10
	Total	85



## 6) Reported Accidents

TABLE XIV

Workplace	No. Reported Non-Fatal	Total Number Investigated	Action Recommended		
			Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No Action
Offices	1	2	-	-	1
Retail Shops	5	5	-	3	2
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	Nil				
Catering Establishments open to the Public and Canteens	Nil				
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil				
Total	6	6	-	3	3

## Analysis of Reported Accidents

TABLE XV

	Retail Shops	Offices	Wholesale Warehouses
Machinery	1	0	0
Falls of Persons	1	1	0
Stepping on or Striking against objects or persons	2	0	0
Handling Goods	1	0	0
Total	5	1	0

It is a matter for regret that due to staffing difficulties in the latter part of the year it was not possible to carry out as many routine visits as intended. Experience has shown that regular inspections are essential if standards are to be maintained and it is hoped that this imbalance will be corrected in 1972.

Arrangements have been made to give talks to school leavers on the implications of the Act for those seeking employment in the commercial or retail distribution industries. Keen interest was shown by young persons, particularly in the steps taken to prevent accidents and to safeguard the health of employees.

## 7) Factories Act 1961

Only part of this Act is administered by local authorities, the main provisions being the responsibility of Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories.

TABLE XVI Inspections for Provisions to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- ions.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1) Factories in which Secs. 1.2.3.4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	-	-	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authorities	74	18	6	-
3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	3	-	-
Total	77	21	6	-



TABLE XVII

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to from HMI	
Sections 1.2.3.4 & 6.	-	-	-	-
Sec.7. Sanitary Conveniences				
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or Defective	7	7	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other Offences	-	-	-	-

TABLE XVIII Outworkers

## Section 133

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec.133 (1)c	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of Prosecutions for failing to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing Apparel (Making)	1	-	-	-

## Outworkers Section 134

Notices Served Nil  
 Prosecutions Nil

## PEST CONTROL

Proposals have been agreed for the partial integration of the Rodent Control Service with Calne and Chippenham R.D.C. and as a first step an additional Rodent Operator is to be appointed jointly by the two authorities.

It was not possible to carry out the full programme of sewer treatments and difficulty was again experienced in dealing with infestations in the network of old stone drocks which are to be found in the older parts of the town.

A number of mice infestations proved to be extremely resistant and increasingly it is becoming apparent that conventional baiting, as practised by the general public, may only exacerbate the problem, and certainly make it more difficult for the department to deal with the situation when we are ultimately called in.

My advice to the public is to notify this department as soon as an infestation is suspected, preferably before they can become established.

TABLE XIX

	Type of Property	
	Non Agric.	Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in the district	7666	8
2. a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	116	1
b) Number infested by		
i) Rats	90	1
ii) Mice	28	-
3. Total number of properties inspected for Rats and Mice for reasons other than notification	247	1
4. Number infested -		
i) Rats	48	1
ii) Mice	-	-



## Insect Pests

Requests for advice and assistance were received in respect of 105 premises during the year. Insect pests dealt with included carpet beetles (capable of doing extensive damage to fabrics throughout the house,) cockroaches, cluster flies, fleas, ants and mites. Restrictions on the use of certain insecticides due to long term effects, are making it less easy to control infestations, particularly where food premises are concerned.

In one instance a heavy cockroach infestation had become established in central heating ducts and repeated treatments were necessary in order to contain the infestation; as with other pests a 90% kill may be relatively easy, but the remaining 10% can prove extremely difficult to eradicate.

## Feral Pigeons

Owners are being encouraged and advised on methods of reducing these flocks and there is a growing awareness of the nuisance arising from the presence of these flocks in urban areas.

## Rabbits

It is the responsibility of individual owners of property to control infestations on their land and during the year a number of successful treatments were carried out on corporate property. Unfortunately, re-infestation soon takes place and the problem can only be contained unless all cover is ruthlessly destroyed, clearly an impracticable suggestion when agriculture land or railway embankments are concerned.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### 1) Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough and there was a steep increase in the number of pigs slaughtered during the second half of the year.

It became necessary to appoint a further authorised Meat Inspector in order to maintain proper standards of ante and post mortem inspection, and prior to this appointment the staff were operating under considerable difficulties.

The Meat Industry is subject to considerable fluctuations and in particular the Bacon Section is dependant on import quotas and subsidies which mitigate against long term planning and make it extremely difficult to forecast future slaughtering patterns and therefore to assess staffing requirements in advance.

Both slaughterhouses are sited in old premises and although the River Street Slaughterhouse was reconstructed in 1959 it is badly sited and could be affected by Central Area Development proposals.

The Bacon factory is in need of modernisation and at the end of the year proposals were under active consideration, unfortunately they now appear to have been shelved for the time being.

**TABLE XX**      Number of Animals Slaughtered

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Wiltshire Bacon Company	-	-	-	113,464	113,464
River Street Slaughterhouse	1,694	6	2,141	1,773	5,614
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,694</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,141</b>	<b>115,237</b>	<b>119,078</b>



TABLE XXI Carcases and offal inspected and details of condemnations

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	1,694	6	2,141	115,237
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>				
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	204
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	234	-	48	18,053
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.8%	-	2.2%	15.6%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>				
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	432
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	0.8%	-	-	0.04%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with cysticercosis	0.4%	-	-	-

Cysticercus Bovis

The location of the cysts found during the routine examination of bovine carcases and organs was as follows :-

Head - Internal Masseter Muscles	1
External Masseter Muscles	4
Heart - Endocardium	2

All the carcases and offal were refrigerated at a cold store in Devizes, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, before being released for sale.

TABLE XXII Analysis of Causes of Condemnationa) Carcases

Principal Grounds	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Extensive bruising or injuries	0	-	1	9	9
Emaciation	-	-	6	6	6
Fever	-	-	5	5	5
Jaundice	-	-	2	2	2
Generalised Oedema	-	-	1	1	1
Acute or Septic Pleurisy	-	-	22	22	22
Acute or Septic Pneumonia	-	-	2	2	2
Acute or Septic Peritonitis	-	-	10	10	10
Pyaemia	-	-	68	68	68
Septicaemia	-	-	55	56	56
Malignant Tumours	-	-	2	2	2
Acute Swine Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised Tuberculosis	-	-	5	5	5
Lymphatic Leukaemia	-	-	6	6	6
Moribund/Imperfect Bleeding	-	-	11	11	11
Totals	0	-	1	204	205



b) Part Carcasses

Principal Grounds	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Abcesses F/Qr.	-	-	-	247	247
Abcesses H/Qr.	-	-	-	869	869
Arthritis	-	-	1	208	209
Bruising	-	-	-	1129	1129
Injuries	-	-	-	33	33
Erythema	-	-	-	425	425
Corynebacterium equi	-	-	-	895	895
Tuberculosis (Almost certainly Avian)	-	-	-	356	356
Totals	-	-	1	4162	4163

TABLE XXIII

c) Edible Offal

Principal Grounds	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
<u>Lungs (Complete)</u>					
Pneumonia	12	-	5	3839	3856
Pleurisy	16	-	-	2177	2193
Parasitic	4	-	-	9	13
Other	-	-	-	275	275
Totals:	32	-	5	6300	6337
<u>Hearts</u>					
Cysticercus Bovis	2	-	-	-	2
Cysticercus Ovis	-	-	-	-	-
Pericarditis etc.	-	-	-	2710	2710
Totals:	2	-	-	2710	2712
<u>Livers</u>					
Abcesses	89	-	10	-	99
Cirrhosis (Parasitic)	-	-	31	3230	3261
Cirrhosis (Other)	-	-	-	408	408
Fascioliasis	36	-	-	-	36
Peritonitis	-	-	-	1776	1776
Other	-	-	-	491	491
Totals:	125	-	41	5905	6071
<u>Part Livers</u>					
Fascioliasis	98	N.R*	N.R*	N.R*	98

N.R\* Not Recorded.

The principal reason for the condemnation of whole carcasses was again Acute or Septic systemic infections which tend to be associated with modern farming techniques. No case of Acute Swine Erysipelas was recorded during the year, which is a measure of the success of the Veterinary Prophylactic Scheme.

Respiratory infections are particularly common in pigs, and it is estimated that up to 25% are affected in some way and in 5.5% of the throughput, it was necessary to reject the affected organs completely,

Research is being carried out by the industry to reduce the incidence of Virus Pneumonia and a number of producers supplying pigs to Chippenham are co-operating in the scheme.

The incidence of liver fluke declined to 7.9% but this does not mean that precautions against eating wild watercress, which is frequently contaminated by animals, can in any way be relaxed.

Weight of Meat and Offal Condemned at Slaughterhouses

53 Tons. 19 Cwt. 95 lb.



OTHER FOODSTABLE XXIV Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned at Wholesale or Retail Premises

	Weight		
	Tons.	Cwt.	Lbs.
Meat, including Bacon	2	7	65
Cooked Meats		7	50
Canned Goods	2	18	56
Other Foods		6	84
Frozen Foods		2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>

With the changing pattern of food marketing, including the reliance on refrigeration in the handling of frozen food, it is important that retailers ensure that their refrigeration equipment is properly maintained and operating at the required temperature. Random checks indicated wide variations in temperatures, and indicating thermometers should be provided to ensure that maximum temperatures are not exceeded.

Disposal of Condemned Food

All condemned meat and offal, from the two slaughterhouses, is collected by specialist processing contractors for conversion into animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers, at plants located outside Chippenham. More stringent regulations were introduced during the year to extend the control of this material.

The remainder of the condemned food was collected and destroyed at the Council's Tip.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

28 Persons were licensed to slaughter animals by the use of approved equipment. New applicants are interviewed, the provisions of the Act carefully explained and they are all required to serve a probationary period working under supervision.

All animals are slaughtered by humane methods and regular checks are made to ensure that the requirements of the Act and Regulations are complied with, including the handling of pigs as they are unloaded from the transporter lorries.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960TABLE XXV

	Notices Served.
Part II General Requirements	1
Part III Requirements relating to persons engaged in the handling of food	8
Part IV Requirements relating to food premises	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>



TABLE XXVI

Type of Business	No.	Estimated No. fitted to comply with Reg. 18 W.H.B.	Estimated No. where Reg. 21 Applies Food/ Equip.	Estimated No. fitted to comply with Reg. 21
Grocers	36	36	36	36
Hotels, Cafes & Restaurants	18	18	18	18
Canteens, Industrial	6	6	6	6
Bakers & Confectioners	9	9	9	9
Fish Fryers	6	6	6	6
Butchers	15	15	15	15
Licensed Premises	34	34	34	34
Sweets and Sugar Confectionary	9	9	9	9
Fruit and Vegetables	8	8	8	8
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4
Dairies	3	3	3	3

Note

In a number of the older smaller premises, washing facilities required under Regulations 18 & 21 may be sited in, and utilised in conjunction with, the adjoining living accommodation.

It is the practice in all new premises, and wherever practicable in the older premises to ensure that separate facilities are provided adjoining the preparation areas.

Food Premises Registered by the Local Authority

Preparation or manufacture of specified foods	24
Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	3
Sale and Storage of Ice Cream	56

Mobile Vehicles and Stalls

There has again been an improvement in standards at mobile stalls at fairs and other functions. The greater use of disposable containers can virtually eliminate the problems of washing utensils in cramped and inadequate facilities which were commonplace before these regulations came into force.

Mobile vehicles vary greatly in design and purpose, and most of the work under this heading is carried out by informal approach and advice.

In 8 cases, however, it was necessary to serve informal notices requiring structural and other alterations to the vehicles retailing in the town.

Consumer Complaints Regarding Food

TABLE XXVII

Analysis of Complaints

Type of Food Implicated	
Meat Products	9
Bread	2
Confectionary & Cakes	3
Milk	4
Fish	2
Butter/Cheese	4
Canned/Bottled Products	5
Other Foods	2
Total	31

Nature of Complaint	
Out of Condition	7
Mould	1
Presence of Parasites	2
Foreign Body - Metallic	4
Plastic	2
Mineral	3
Animal Matter	1
Wood etc.	3
Infestation	5
Dirty Containers	2
Other Complaints	1
Total	31

As will be seen from the above table, the complaints covered a wide range of foods and as many originated outside Chippenham, the investigations involved close co-operation with colleagues in other areas.

It is encouraging to see the reduction in the number of complaints regarding the presence of mould but unfortunately this improvement did not extend to those perishable products having a slightly longer shelf life of 2 - 3 weeks.



The same pattern of incorrect storage and lack of stringent checks and stock rotation resulted in out of condition foods being retailed to the public. Management is, however, responding to pressure from the Health Department and approved stock rotation systems are being introduced. Code marking is still inadequate on many perishable commodities and manufacturers consistently reject suggestions that the systems of code marking should be simplified to facilitate control by the retailer.

Human error again accounted for a number of these complaints and the importance of in-service training in the food industry cannot be stressed too strongly.

Legal proceedings were taken in four cases:

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations 1959	£10 + Costs
Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 (inconjunction with the City of Bristol)	£30 + Costs
Food & Drugs Act 1955. Sec.2. Case 1.	£30 + Costs
Case 2.	£15 + Costs

### Food Hygiene

Whilst much can be done to improve standards of hygiene by structural improvements and new equipment, all this can be of little avail unless the food handlers carry out their tasks efficiently and correctly in accordance with good hygienic practice.

We are still finding food handlers who take short cuts by, for example, failing to thaw out completely deep frozen chickens before spit roasting. It is essential to follow the advice on the label to ensure that the chicken is thoroughly cooked before consumption. Other points to follow involve incorrect temperature control, with susceptible foods left in a warm humid or steaming atmosphere for several hours before preparation or cold storage, thereby providing ideal conditions for the growth of food poisoning organisms.

Our first priority must, therefore, be the education of the food handler by every means within our power.

It is encouraging that regular talks with the Hospital Catering Service are to be introduced in 1972, and it is hoped that private employers will follow suit.

### Milk and Dairies

It is pleasing to report that for the third year running, no raw milk was retailed within the Borough. Despite the Brucellosis eradication scheme, it will be a number of years before this hazard is eliminated from our milk supply and until then heat treatment by pasteurisation or sterilisation is the only safeguard.

TABLE XXVIII

Number of Registered Dairies	1
Number of Registered Distributors	
a) Obtaining milk from heat treatment plants with Wilts	19
b) Obtaining milk from heat treatment plants outside Wilts	15
Number of Distributors dealing in untreated milk	1 (bulk only)
Number of Registered Distributors	22
Numbers of Dealers (Pre-packed Licence)	22

### Bacteriological Examination

Analysis of Samples - Public Health Laboratory, Bath

TABLE XXIV

Type of Milk	No. of samples	M/B Test Sat. Fail.	Phosphatase Sat. Fail	Turbidity Sat. Fail	Colony Count Sat. Fail
Untreated	-				
Pasteurised	44	42	2	44	-
Ultra Heat Treated	14	-	-	-	14
Sterilised	9	-	-	9	-
Pasteurised C.I.	2	2	-	2	-
Pasteurised (Homogenised)	5	5	-	5	-

### Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.



## Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing plants within the district.

## Imported Food Regulations

During the year a quantity of imported food was received in containers which had not been cleared by the Port Health Authorities. Notifications were received from the Port Health Inspectors concerned and arrangements made to examine the consignments prior to release for distribution. Included in these consignments were quantities of Powdered Chicken meat and arrangements were made for these to be examined bacteriologically to ensure that they had been correctly processed.

## Ice Cream

The standards for ice cream are not mandatory but successive failures in Grades III/IV are a matter for considerable concern and the increasing number of pre-packed samples falling into Grade II could also be held to indicate a lowering of standards somewhere in the handling of the product.

The main problem with loose ice-cream is the need to use servers which can readily become contaminated and hence transfer contamination to ice cream. Discussions with representatives of the manufacturers indicated loopholes in the advice given to retailers, and the need to use sterilising agents is now generally accepted, and their guidance notes amended. The trend towards loose ice cream and higher storage temperatures in retail cabinets, certainly contributed to the problem, but despite these difficulties, the results do show an improvement over last year.

It was not possible to sample from the mobile ice cream vans due, in part, to their erratic timetable and the difficulty of arranging for the samples to be examined at the Laboratory outside normal working hours.

**TABLE XXX**

### Results of Bacteriological Examination of Ice Cream

Grade	Type of Ice Cream		Total	%
	Loose	Pre-Packed		
I	16	32	48	71
II	3	9	12	18
III	5	2	7	11
IV	-	-	-	-
Total	24	43	67	

## Bacteriological Sampling of Other Foods

A limited amount of work was carried out under this heading, but to some extent this had to be curtailed because of staff difficulties and the need to maintain the meat inspection service.

## WATER SUPPLY

The water is supplied to Chippenham by the North Wilts Water Board and is normally drawn from boreholes at Rodbourne, Charlton and Chippenham, and the sampling programme is designed to cover each supply.

There was a welcome reduction in the number of samples failing to indicate the presence of residual chlorine, and this was almost certainly due to the improved Chlorination Equipment which is being installed by the Water Board.

**TABLE XXXI**

	Satisfactory	Coliform Organisms Detected	Total	Residual Chlorine present	
				Yes	No
Mains Supply	175	6	181	169	12
Storage Tanks	10	Nil	10	10	-
Private Bores	8	Nil	8	7	1
Total	193	6	199	186	13

No particular problems were indicated by the investigation into those samples where isolated coliforms were detected, generally they were associated with older sections of the system which are due for replacement.



## Presence of Lead

Lead appears to have been little used in domestic supply systems, except in the 1930's when short lengths were used to connect to gas water heaters.

The supplies of water to Chippenham are not actively plumb-solvent and there is no evidence of any hazard to consumers, samples taken during the year were well below the permitted levels recommended by the World Health Organisation.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### Domestic Pollution

It is encouraging to record that nationally the average smoke concentration in towns fell by about 60% between 1961 - 1971 much of this reduction has been due to improvements in industrial installations and the Department of the Environment are pressing local authorities to intensify their smoke control programmes. This authority have not considered establishing smoke control areas to date, but with the success of these policies in the more industrial areas, a more positive approach, possibly linked with Improvement Areas, is likely to evolve over the next few years.

### Industrial and Commercial Pollution

During the year 102 visits were made in connection with these duties, and obsolete plant, incinerators and the disposal of waste products and trade refuse, were the main causes of complaint. The object of regulating chimney heights is to secure the proper dispersal of flue gases; in the more modern installations emission velocities are very low and in most cases, it is essential to insulate the stacks to avoid undue temperature reduction before the gases are discharged. Little progress seems to have been made towards the elimination of Sulphur from the residual heavy fuel oils, and naturally Sulphur-free fuels are in ever increasing demand.

TABLE XXXII Clean Air Acts 1956 - 1968

a) No. of contraventions - Dark or Excessive Smoke Emissions	17
b) New Installations	
i) Number of notifications	5
ii) Applications for prior approval	1
iii) Alterations required	1
iv) Number of applications granted	1
c) Grit or Dust	
i) Number of contraventions	-
ii) Arrestment Plant	-
iii) Exemptions	-
iv) Directions re Measurement	-
d) Chimney Heights	
i) Number of Applications	1
ii) Alterations required	1
iii) Number approved	1
iv) Number dealt with in accordance with Part L. Building Regulations	-

### Alkali &c Works Regulations Act 1906

There are a number of scheduled processes in the town and these works are subject to the technical control of the Alkali Works Inspector due to the complexity of the processes concerned.

The department co-operates closely with the Alkali Works Inspector, and a monitoring programme has been established to ensure that there are no excessive emissions of toxic materials and, what is increasingly becoming more important, no build up in the soil of these materials.

Little is known about the distribution of these products in the environment, and the long term effects on the ecology, and the original programme has been extended to include Lead and Cadmium.

It is hoped to be in a position to report more fully on this programme towards the end of 1972.



## Pollution from Road Vehicles

With the opening of the M4 at the end of the year, there was an immediate reduction in the number of heavy articulated vehicles which formerly travelled the M4/A420 between London, Bristol and South Wales.

Whilst welcoming this improvement, there is still a considerable volume of through traffic passing through Chippenham, and it is essential that long standing proposals for relief roads should be implemented. The present trend towards heavier lorries re-inforces my view, as does the anticipated increase in the number of vehicles using our roads.

There has been a great deal of controversy over the presence of lead arising from the use of high octane fuels in modern cars. There is no doubt that lead is the most common pollutant of the environment and that it can be a cumulative poison to man. The amounts produced by individual cars are minute, and because lead is such a common pollutant there is doubt as to how much of this air borne lead arises from exhaust fumes, and how much from other forms of pollution. Further investigations are taking place and it seems likely that ultimately we shall see the introduction of more stringent exhaust controls, similar to those covering engine crankcase emissions. (Construction and Use. Ref. SI 1971/C444.)

### Litter

It is disturbing to note the increase in another form of pollution, namely litter.

Why must people thoughtlessly foul their own nest ? If only, instead of throwing away empty cigarette cartons, paper bags, sweet wrappings, plastic bags, tin cans, plastic drinking cups, newspapers, leaflets or ice cream wrappings, they would take these home or place them in a litter basket, how much more attractive the town would become.

Do many parents set their children a good example ? Are we really prepared to accept the requirements of the Litter Act ? Conservation Groups can play a major part in re-educating the public to be more litter conscious.

### NOISE

Noise is becoming increasingly recognised as an unjustifiable interference with ordinary human comfort and well being. While noise cannot, of course, be totally eliminated, much can and should be done to reduce it.

The Noise Abatement Act 1960 merely extended to Noise the well established concept of statutory nuisance and it is becoming obvious that the law will have to be extended and modified in order to protect the general public against any insidious increase in general noise levels.

It has been suggested the Noise Abatement Zones should be established, in which overall noise levels would be prescribed, and both industry and commerce would have to limit the volume of noise escaping into the surrounding area. However, this would create difficulties as far as traffic noise is concerned. Current proposals for reducing noise levels from individual vehicles, although welcome, will do little to deal with the problem of the heavy flow of through traffic in residential and shopping areas. Road Patterns and traffic movements must be considered in relation to the impact of the resulting noise levels on residential areas. At present, the overriding priorities given to through traffic make nonsense of attempts to improve the environment.

### TABLE XXXIII

Number of complaints received	38
Number of complaints investigated	38
Number of Nuisances Confirmed -	
Industrial/Commercial	7
Roadworks/Construction Sites	7
Domestic Premises	1
Ice Cream Vans	7
Statutory Undertakers	7
Traffic Noise	5
Other	3
Number of Nuisances Remedied	28



## SWIMMING POOL

The open air swimming pool and paddling pool at Monkton Park are visited weekly during the season and samples were taken to check levels of free chlorine and to ensure that the pH of the water was satisfactory.

	<u>Swimming Pool</u>	<u>Children's Pool</u>
Average Readings:	Chlorine 0.8 ppm pH 7.3 ppm	Chlorine 1.6 ppm pH 7.3 ppm

The clarity of the water was generally excellent, although during exceptionally heavy use it was necessary to run the circulation pumps continuously day and night to maintain standards. It was also difficult to maintain proper circulation in the deep end of the pool, although this should be improved by next season.

The present trend towards longer hair by both sexes does create problems with hair choking the filters, and I would like to see far more use made of bathing caps by both women and men. In some parts of Europe this is obligatory, and the aesthetic and hygienic advantages of such a step should be apparent to everyone.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

103 Visits of enquiry were made in connection with infectious diseases and intestinal infections. All too frequently however, the time lag between onset and notification made it difficult to pinpoint the source, particularly where isolated cases were concerned.

One of the problems associated with these investigations is the fact that although the contact may recover completely, he or she continues to excrete the organism for up to 3 or 4 months. In these cases the department are involved in extended surveillance, but fortunately, most people appreciate the situation and co-operate fully with the department.

With the growth of air travel and foreign holidays, it is essential that food handlers affected by tummy upsets check with their Doctor on return before recommencing work.

A Disinfecting Station is maintained at Frogwell Hospital by this department in a state of constant readiness, for use by five authorities in the area.

The capital and running costs are shared on a population basis.

## DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

Three premises remain licensed under the Act and process waste food for use in the adjoining piggeries.

## PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Two pet shops were licensed and both premises have been satisfactorily maintained.

## AGRICULTURE, (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956

As an urban authority, this has only limited application in the Borough.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year 85 sewers and drains were found to be choked or otherwise defective, and 319 visits were made in connection with the remedial works.

The commencement of Stage III of the Council's programme to renew the town's Sewerage System and Treatment Works, was encouraging evidence that the public health problems associated with overloaded sewers and treatment works in the town are at last within sight of a solution.

The first Report of the Royal Commission of Pollution, gave particular emphasis to the need to reduce river pollution, and it is clear that in future, industrial and residential development will not be allowed in advance of the provision of adequate sewerage treatment facilities.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

It is interesting to record the growing concern of people in the environment and the effect on their health and well being.

My staff are always prepared to talk to members of the public on this subject and welcome public participation in maintaining a healthy environment. During the year talks were given to food handlers, young people, and other groups, on various aspects of our work, and frequently resulted in a two-way exchange of ideas.

An important innovation has been the introduction of talks to school leavers, because much of our work requires the active assistance and co-operation of the public, and if we are to attain this, then we must be able to communicate freely with all ages.

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